

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that claim 11 is now a linking claim with claim 1. Accordingly, although claims 12 and 13 are withdrawn from consideration at this time, Applicant understands that claims 12 and 13 will be added back in for consideration upon allowance of the linking claims 1 and 11.

Although Applicant believes that claims 1-3 and 11 were statutorily allowable as previously presented, Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 11 in deference to the Examiner's objections. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not affect any change in the scope of coverage of any of these claims, and specifically did not limit the range of equivalents that are encompassed by these claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-5, stating that there was insufficient antecedent basis for some claim terms.

Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 11 to provide a more definite recitation of "a same side" and "an area of the array."

However, Applicant respectfully traverses any objections to the term "the other sides" of the array and submits that the term raises no antecedent basis issues. In this regard, Applicant respectfully draws the Examiner's attention to M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(f) where it is stated that, for example:

"the limitation 'the outer surface of said sphere' would **not** require an antecedent basis that the sphere has an outer surface."

(Emphasis added).

Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that, having already recited one side of the array, “the other sides” of the array are inherent components of the array and their recitation raises no antecedent basis issues.

Meanwhile, Applicant notes that “the profile” recited in claims 4 and 5 has proper antecedent basis in claim 1 from which claims 4 and 5 each depend. Furthermore, although no objection has been raised to the term “the profile” with respect to claim 1, Applicant notes that just as a sphere inherently has an outer surface, a plate inherently has a profile. Thus, citing M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(f) above, Applicant respectfully submits that this the term raises no antecedent basis issues.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Walker et al. U.S. Patent 6,275,277 (“Walker”) in view of Greene et al. U.S. Patent 6,496,238 (“Greene”).

Applicant respectfully traverses those rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, the device of claim 1 includes a supporting plate wherein the profile of the supporting plate around the sides of the array (besides the side of the array from which the driver circuits are connected to the address conductors) is **non-rectangular**.

Applicant respectfully submits that an active matrix device with such a feature is not disclosed in either Walker, Greene or any combination thereof.

The Office Action states that Walker discloses a supporting plate 115 wherein the profile of the plate is non-rectangular, citing col. 5, lines 3-15.

However, col. 5, lines 3-15 pertain to a **semiconductor wafer 115** as shown in FIGs. 1-17 during intermediate steps in the fabrication of a plurality of actual

individual active matrix devices 300 (see, e.g., col. 12, lines 5-8; col. 15, lines 23-35; col. 15, line 45-col. 16, line 32; col. 7, lines 12-13; FIGs. 28-31; FIG. 7, etc.). As discussed with respect to the embodiments shown in FIGs. 20-21 and FIGs. 26-27, the wafer 115 is scored and “singularized” before the active matrix devices 300 are completed by, for example, sealing their liquid crystal fill ports (col. 15, lines 45-48). As can be plainly seen in FIGs. 30-33, the actual active matrix device 300 itself indeed **does** have a rectangular profile.

Like Walker, Greene also fails to disclose a supporting plate wherein the profile of the supporting plate around the sides of the array (besides the side of the array from which the driver circuits are connected to the address conductors), is **non-rectangular**.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of Walker and Greene could produce the device of claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the device of claim 1 is patentable over and possible combination of Walker and Greene.

Claims 2-8

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable over Walker and Greene for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9

In similarity to claim 1, the liquid crystal display of claim 9 includes a supporting plate wherein the profile of the supporting plate around the sides of the array (besides the side of the array from which the driver circuits are connected to the address conductors), is **non-rectangular**.

As explained above in detail with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that an active matrix device with such a feature is not disclosed in either Walker, Greene, or any combination thereof.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the device of claim 9 is patentable over any combination of Walker and Greene.

Claim 10

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is deemed patentable over Walker and Greene for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9.

Claim 11

Among other things, the method of claim 11 includes shaping a pre-formed active matrix device, the pre-formed device comprising a supporting plate, wherein the shaping results in the profile of the plate around the sides of the array (besides the side of the array from which the driver circuits are connected to the address conductors) being non-rectangular.

As explained above in detail with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that an active matrix device with such a feature is not disclosed in either Walker or Greene.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the method of claim 11 is patentable over Walker and Greene.

Claims 12-13

As explained above, Applicant respectfully submits that the linking claims 1 and 11 are allowable. Accordingly, at this time, Applicant respectfully requests that the claims 12 and 13, dependent from claim 11, be added back into the application and allowed at this time.

CONCLUSION

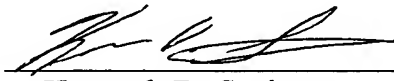

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-13, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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